

7

Remarks**Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112**

Claim 1 has been amended such that sub-section (c) now provides an antecedent for the "data request".

Claim Objections

Claim 38 has been amended to depend from claim 36.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

As the Examiner correctly noted, the limitations emphasized in the last response were not all shown in the claims, in particular that the client device (third device) instructs the content server (second device) to request its data directly from the form filling server (first device). This was due to an error in the amendments made in the last response.

Accordingly, claim 1 has now been amended so that it is explicitly stated that "said first third device directing said second device to forward said a data request to said first device in order for the first device to supply said information requested on said web page to said second device".

As this amendment brings claim 1 into line with the features relied on in the last response, it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinguished over the prior art for the reasons given in the last response. For completeness and for convenience of the Examiner, appropriate portions of the arguments are repeated in italics at the end of the substantive remarks made here.

One further amendment has been made to better bring out one of the features argued for in the last response, namely that in the present invention the second device is the content server hosting the web page with the form to be filled. In contrast, the argument supporting the rejection considered that the selective proxy server 14 in Markus could be considered to be the second device.

8

Accordingly, claim 1 specifies "said third device [client device] accessing a web page hosted by said second device [content server], wherein said web page includes a request for information". The second device therefore can no longer be argued to encompass Markus' selective proxy server, which does not host the form containing the request for information. This feature is elaborated on in the remarks from the last response which are repeated below.

Text of remarks made in the last response for consideration with the currently amended claims

For the purposes of comprehensibility and to allow a more ready comparison between the invention and the prior art, it is proposed in this response to replace the references to "first", "second" and "third" devices with more colloquial and "user-friendly" terminology. This is done on the strict understanding that the terminology employed is for illustrative purposes only and is not to be implied as any limitation on the scope of the claims.

The "first device" will be referred to as the "form filling server". This device accesses a data file and returns user data to fill the fields in the form.

The "second device" will be referred to as the "content server". This server hosts the form to be filled.

The "third device" will be referred to as the "client device". This is the device from which the user accesses the network. (Markus also refers to this as a browser).

Markus (US Patent No. 6,499,042) describes a system which operates as follows, see col. 1, lines 21-34:

- 1) The client device accesses a form hosted on the content server.*
- 2) The client device then establishes a connection with the form filling server.*
- 3) The client device transmits to the form filling server the URL of the content*

9

server, and the location of the form in question.

4) The form-filling server then accesses that URL, locates the form, and retrieves and fills in the required data.

5) The content server presents the filled-in form to the first device for user confirmation.

The present invention, as claimed in amended claim 1, operates as follows:

1) The client device accesses a form hosted on the content server.

2) The client device provides the URL of the form filling server to the content server.

3) The content server establishes a connection with the form filling server and requests the missing data.

4) The form-filling server retrieves and returns the required data.

5) The content server presents the filled-in form to the first device for user confirmation.

This difference in the communication protocols followed in the two systems provides significant advantages to the present invention.

The Markus system is based on the assumption that the form filling server will always be able to access a form when provided with a URL and a form location. However, it is common experience that when a link is sent from one person to another, e.g. by email, the link cannot always be accessed. This is particularly true when the URL is generated as part of a secure http session (where this type of invention has its primary application).

Thus, for example, if a user has navigated through an airline booking site and has reached the secure page where billing information is to be input, that URL cannot generally be accessed by another party. The secure content server requires not only a cookie (which the Markus system proposes to transmit) but also requires secure

session keys, which cannot be readily transferred between entities. Many secure servers will also reject a new connection coming from a different IP address (e.g. a form filling server requesting access from one IP address to a secure session form generated for a user at a different IP address).

It is also quite common for forms to be generated dynamically during a user session, and for those forms to include elements generated earlier in that session. Such forms do not have a simple network location which can be accessed by any third party server as Markus describes.

The next major difference between the respective systems is that Markus requires the user to open a second parallel connection when the web browser is already open. Quite simply put, a large number of web users, perhaps the majority, do not have the technical know-how or the confidence to have multiple browser instances open at one time. Alternatively, the functions can be accomplished by a further program which is launched from the browser and establishes the new connection to the form filling server. This exposes the client device to security weaknesses by allowing a new program access to the Internet. In contrast, the user of the present invention needs only to fill in, on the already open web page, the name of the form filling service (e.g. type <http://www.form-filling-service.com/johndoe> into a box on the form itself). This latter method does not require third-party software to access the Internet, and does not require that the user have any additional technical know-how.

It can therefore be seen that the respective systems, while both intended to allow a proxy server to fill in forms on behalf of a user, accomplish this objective in quite a different manner in terms of the communications between the three constituent devices. It can also be seen that the invention does not depend on two distinct devices being able to access a secure URL which may be dynamically generated for a single session only and which may be designed to be accessible only by a single user as part of a secure key-encrypted session.

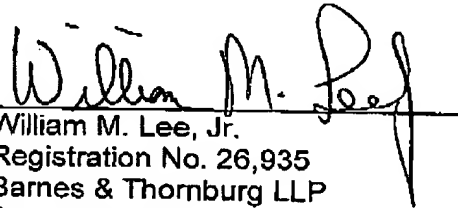
11

Nothing in Markus teaches towards or suggests a system in which the client device instructs the content server to request its data directly from the form filling server. Indeed, Markus teaches the skilled person that the data should be provided from the form filling server in a different manner, i.e. the form filling server imitating an actual user of the form by accessing the relevant URL with the user's own cookie, to replicate the user's experience. Accordingly it is submitted that the claimed invention is not obvious in view of Markus.

Further and favorable reconsideration of the application is now urged.

September 15, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



William M. Lee, Jr.
Registration No. 26,935
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
P.O. Box 2786
Chicago IL 60690-2786
(312) 214-4800
Fax (312) 759-5646

CHDS01 WLEE 294705v1